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PRESS RELEASE –
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**Weed and Seed Sites Host
Anti-Violence Symposium**

United States Attorney Colm F. Connolly, announced today that the Dover and Wilmington Weed and Seed sites will be sponsoring a statewide anti-violence symposium in commemoration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday. The symposium will take place on Saturday, January 15, 2005 at the Delaware Technical and Community College, Terry Campus, in Dover, from 10 a.m. to approximately 3 p.m.

The event will feature three speakers: 1) RV Brown from Odessa, FL is the founder of Outreach to America's Youth, a program designed to influence youth to make positive choices, strengthen communication and to motivate parents, educators and communities to take an active role in their child; 2) Omar Jahwar from Dallas, TX is the founder of Vision Regeneration, Inc., whose mission is to change the cultural environment of at-risk youth in order to eliminate violent and destructive behavior. Through ministry, mentoring, entertainment and hands on intervention, Omar Jahwar has committed his life to creating an alternative youth culture. Jahwar is the recipient of numerous accolades, including the White House Award for Achievement Against the Odds. Jahwar has also released two albums on his label, Butterfly Records; and 3) Dr. Rozario L. Slack from Chattanooga, TN will discuss connecting with urban fathers and teen boys.

U.S. Attorney Connolly stated, "my office's commitment to reducing gun violence in the District of Delaware extends beyond the prosecution of individuals who illegally possess firearms by also endeavoring to educate the public regarding the consequences of illegally possessing a

firearm. In commemoration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birth, this symposium purposes to share Dr. King's message of nonviolence, provide an educational forum regarding the consequences of one's actions and to discuss solutions regarding the gun violence in our communities."

Youth, ages 13 and above, parents, youth care workers, youth ministry leaders, community leaders, and concerned citizens are encouraged to attend. The symposium is free and lunch will be provided.

The symposium was made possible due to a grant received by Project Safe Neighborhoods, a U.S. Department of Justice initiative committed to aggressive investigation and prosecution of gun crimes.

For more information, contact Kimberlynn Reeves at 573-6277, ext. 146.

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